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Glomar Explorer Off on Possible Sub-Raising Drill

The Central Intelligence Agency's Glomar Explorer left Long Beach at noon Wednesday, presumably to rehearse for its scheduled return this summer to the site of a sunken Russian submarine.

The mystery ship recovered a third of the sub last July in an operation that presumably revealed hitherto secret nuclear capabilities of the sunken vessel.

During this summer's return, Explorer crewmen hope to raise the remainder of the vessel and, with it, a device that would unlock the previously unbreakable Russian code.

As early as Tuesday, reports circulated in Redwood City that a giant barge berthed there, the HMB-1, would be towed imminently to a rendezvous with the Explorer somewhere on the high seas.

Before last summer's mission, the barge submerged off Avalon beneath the Explorer and the mother ship hoisted a giant claw, or recovery device, into a huge hold, called the "moon pool."

The massive barge was built solely to conceal construction of the claw, just as the Explorer was built—at a cost estimated at up to \$400 million—for the submarine recovery effort.

The claw was severely damaged when two-thirds of the submarine broke away from it last summer at the recovery site in the Pacific, 750 miles northwest of Hawaii.